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FEB 9 1961

The People's Korea

No. 3 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1961 ★ ★ ★

# Fatherland Front Proposes South-North Talks At Panmunjom

(Pyongyang, Jan. 18, Korean Central News Agency) —On Jan. 18, a meeting of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front was held at the Moranbong Theatre. At the meeting, the questions of further promoting peaceful unification of the fatherland and of realizing at an early date South-North negotiation and interchange, economic and cultural, were discussed. The meeting unanimously adopted a statement the major points of which are as follows:

◇The Central Committee of the Fatherland Front pays serious attention to recent tendencies toward an independent unification of the fatherland which have become marked among various circles of South Korea.

Our nation has been in an extreme unhappy situation, unable to know the safety of our relations due to the split of the country continuing for these 16 years. Owing to the split of the country,the South Korean people are suffering terribly under the conditions of rightlessness and difficult living. Such a tragic state of things must be put an end to as soon as possible.

Out of fraternal love and the desire to remove the misfortune of the split of the nation and to save the South Koeran brethren from distress, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been consistently making sincere efforts for the peaceful unification of the fatherland. To solve the Korean question peacefully by Korean people themselves without any foreign interference has been the unanimous assertion of all the Korean people. In his report delivered at a commemorative meeting held in honour of the 15th anniversary of the August 15 Liberation, Premier Kim Il Sung made public a great program for peaceful unification of the fatherland and for the future prosperity of the nation. Elaborating this program, the 8th Session of the 2nd Supreme People's Assembly put forward realistic plans. These program and plans are the most righteous way for the solution of the Korean question and are the only way for the South Korean people to make a new start. This is why these program and plans are positively supported and approved of by all the Korean people and the fair-minded public opinion of the world as well.

The people of the northern half of the Republic are rising, determined to restore and rebuild destroyed South Korean factories and enterprises, to improve farm-land and complete irrigation projects,thereby to save the South Korean people from hardships.

◇Demands for South-North contact and negotiation are growing stronger with each passing day among the South Korean political parties, social organizations and individuals as well. Taking a stand for an independent way of unifying the fatherland, "the Central Council for Independent National Unification" and a number of South Korean political parties and social organizations have recently demanded, first of all, realization of South-North interchange, economic and cultural, exchange of letters and free travels.

Meanwhile, "the National Front for Unification of the Fatherland," formed recently in South Korea, has come out with a demand for a permanent commission to be set up by South-North non-governmental representatives in a suitable place in the demilitarized zone to discuss questions concerning the realization of South-North interchange, economic and cultural, and exchange of letters, inspection missions and journalists. It further asserts that "the National Executive Commission for Unification of the Fatherland" be set up for promoting peaceful unification. This reflects well the patriotic aspirations of our people to overcome difficulties confronting our fatherland and accords with the will of the Korean people.

◇The Central Committee of the Fatherland Front enthusiastically welcomes and fully supports all these assertions and proposals of these South Korean social and political circles for the historic cause of our nation. We pay respects to these assertions and proposals aimed at promoting the peaceful unification of the fatherland and South-North negotiation and interchange. We shall be pleased to receive any proposals from South Korean political parties, social organizations or individual persons so long as they contain a constructive opinion on promoting the peaceful unification of the fatherland and on realizing South-North contact and negotiation.

◇It is high time to start, first of all, contacts and negotiations between South and North representatives, South-North economic and cultural interchange,exchangs of letters and free travels as important steps toward achieving the peaceful unification of the fatherland. On no grounds can the realization of these plans be delayed any longer. First of all, representatives of both South and North should gather in one place as soon as possible to work out a practical measure to meet the situation. We propose that the representatives of both South and North meet at Panmunjom or in any other suitable place to enter into negotiation at the earliest possible date. We may take up the questions of South-North economic and cultural interchange or of exchanges of letters, inspection missions and journalists; or the question of setting up a permanent organization composed of non-governmental representatives of South and North; or the question of setting up "the National Executive Commission for Unification of the Fatherland." We are of opinion that any of these questions will do. Before anything else, let us gather in one place irrespective of whether we are non-governmental representatives or individual persons. By doing so, we should solve various pending questions as soon as possible.

◇We are firmly convinced that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will meet any constructive conditions proposed and offer every convenience for realizing negotiations of South and North representatives, South-North economic and cultural interchange, exchange of letters and free travels as it has done up to date. The South Korean authorities should also ensure free activities of all political parties, social organizations and individuals for South-North negotiations and interchange and afford every convenience necessary for such activities.

◇The peaceful unification of the fatherland should be achieved by Korean people themselves without any foreign interference. The question of restoring the ruined South Korean economy and saving the South Korean people from hardships should also be solved by Korean people themselves. The Korean nation is an able and wise nation. The northern part of the Republic has foundations powerful and mighty enough to restore the South Korean economy and ensure the prosperity and development of the fatherland. Dependence on a foreign power cannot but lead to national ruination. This is demonstrated by the tragic realities of South Korea caused by U.S. occupation and "assistance." We should resolutely denounce the plots of some South Korean politicians continuously to follow the U.S. aggressive policy and to pull into South Korea even the aggressive forces of Japanese imperialism — the sworn enemies of the Korean people.

◇Everyone should rise, demanding withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggressors from our land and realization of the peaceful unification of the country by Korean people themselves. At a time when the time is getting ripe for the peaceful unification of our land, everyone with national consciousness should come out without hesitation for this just cause of the people.

We will advance hand in hand with those who desire peaceful unification of the fatherland, irrespective of their political views, beliefs, occupations and past records.

January 18, 1961
Central Committee of
the Fatherland Front.

## Movement For Peaceful Unification Spreads Rapidly In S. Korea

*Recently, South Korean political circles are strongly demanding South-North negotiation. Included among these politicians are Suh Min Ho, Vice-Speaker of the "Lower House," and Chung Heun Ju, "Chief Cabinet Secretary" of the South Korean authorities. In this way, movements in South Korea for peaceful unification are rapidly expanding day after day.*

### "National Front" Sets Two Big Tasks For Unification

(Pyongyang Jan. 13, Korean Central News Agency)—A social organization called "National Front for Unification of the Fatherland" was inaugurated in Seoul on Jan. 9, according to a Seoul report.

The National Front published a statement calling for unification on Jan. 13. In the statement the National Front denounced an ill-disguised attempt of the South Korean reactionaries to sabotage unification.

The following are the main points of the plan proposed by the National Front for accomplishing unification of the fatherland through North-South interchange and negotiation.

1. Delegates of civic organizations of North and South, should meet in a suitable place in the demilitaried zone, to discuss, on the basis of agreement on ultimate unification, questions concerning exchange of letters, economic and cultural interchange, exchange of inspection missions and journalists, organize a proper organ, maintain constant contact with each other, submit recommendations to respective governments on agreed points concerning the above-mentioned items and make efforts to carry out such agreements for the solution of the pressing problems.

2. While carrying out the above-mentioned items, delegates of various sections of North and South should meet in an appointed place as soon as possible for the purpose of organizing a body tentatively called "National Executive Commission for Unification of the Fatherland."

### Speaker Of S.Korean Assembly For South-North Interchange

Recently, not only the masses and progressive politicians, but also some leaders of the ruling party and the government in the South are expressing their approval of peaceful unification.

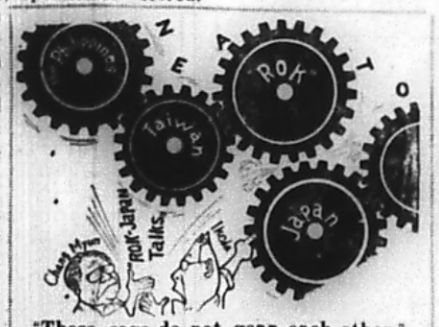
Kwak Sang Hun, Speaker of the South Korean "National Assembly," proposed on Jan. 2 to inaugurate the "National Council on Unification Problems." He said, "It is unrealistic to hold 'general elections under U. N. supervision' without concrete policies." Suh Min Ho, Vice-Speaker, is also for South-North interchange.

The above-mentioned "Council" to be composed of politicians, scientists and other various sections is scheduled to start next month for promoting South-North interchange and unification of the fatherland, reported U. P. I. on Jan. 22.

### Progressive Party Proposes New Body For Unification

(Pyongyang Jan. 16, Korean Central News Agency)— A spokesman for the South Korean "Progressive Party," inaugurated on Jan. 8, said in a press interview that a "Consultative Committee" should be organized as soon as possible, composed of representatives of South Korean political parties, social organizations, journalists and of various other sections. This organization will coordinate, study and develop various unification plans proposed by political parties and factions in order to meet the spreading movements for unification.

The Party also appealed to the public to carry out necessary and effective economic interchange, and exchange of letters, journalists, sportsmen and artists on a limited scale as a first step toward improving "bad feeling" against North Korea.




"These cogs do not gear each other."
Che Jun

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# "ROK-JAPAN TALKS" PAVE ROAD TO "NEATO," HAMPERING KOREA'S UNIFICATION

The "ROK-Japan Talks" were resumed on Jan. 25. The talks are aimed at the formation of the "North-East Asian Treaty Organization," obstructing peaceful unification of Korea. Therefore, denouncing the talks, both the Korean and Japanese peoples are launching strong opposition movements against the talks.

## U. S. Imperialists Stand Behind "Talks"

The so-called "normalization" talks between the Chang Myun regime and the Japanese government were resumed after a year-end recess on Jan. 25.

As is well known, the talks were started in 1951 between the Syngman Rhee clique and the Yoshida Cabinet of Japan under the directions of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then Supreme Commander of the U. S. Far East Forces, with a view to stepping up the formation of a North-East Asian military alliance for U. S. imperialism.

Since then, the South Korean authorities and the Japanese Government, both receiving instructions from the U. S. Government, have tried to adjust differences to bring the conference to a successful conclusion as a step toward realizing a plot to spawn a NEATO.

However, this vicious plot has been frustrated by the joint struggle of the Korean and Japanese peoples and of the other peace-loving peoples of the world.

A new factor has been injected into the so-called "ROK-Japan" talks since the fall of the Syngman Rhee regime by the heroic uprising of the South Korean people in April of 1960.

U. S. Ambassador to Seoul Walter P. McConaughy took the initiative and proposed to the Japanese Government to normalize diplomatic relations with South Korea as early as possible and to give economic assistance to that part of Korea in order to save the South Korean regime from the present crisis and to retain it in the so-called "free world."

It is worthy of note in this connection that McConaughy's proposal coincided with the deepening crisis of the dollar. Under the circumstances, the U. S. imperialists were forced to have Japan shoulder part of the burden of "aid" to South Korea.

Such a proposal accorded well with the interests of the reviving Japanese militarists. The Ikeda Government, serving Japan's monopoly capital, is seeking to launch an economic invasion of South Korea and to take over some of the U. S. responsibilities there.

On the other hand, the Chang Myun regime, confronting aggravating economic conditions and the widespread demand of the masses for reunification, has found it necessary to induct Japanese capital as a means of bolstering its extremely precarious position.

The "ROK-Japan" talks have been reopened against these backgrounds. At first, the Chang Myun regime and the Ikeda Government made a fuss over the question of whether the establishment of diplomatic relations should precede the solution of pending issues such as "property claims," the "legal status of Korean citizens in Japan," and the so-called "Rhee line."

But this wrangling was no more than a smokescreen to deceive the public. As a matter of fact, they are discussing in the talks the ways and means of supporting the shaky Chang Myun regime and the question of forming a NEATO. The plan to establish diplomatic relations by exchanging ambassadors toward May of this year or after the closing of the regular session of the Japanese Diet, is aimed at prolonging the life of the Ikeda Cabinet confronting the opposition movement of the Japanese people to the "normalization" talks.

Japanese monopoly capital is said to be intending to give a sum of 600-700 million dollars in "economic aid" to South Korea. There is no doubt that this "economic aid" will serve only to enrich the Chang Myun regime and its cohorts and prove detrimental to the vital interests of the South Korean people.

The economic invasion of South Korea by Japanese monopolists under the aegis of U.S. imperialists will place an obstacle in the way of peaceful unification of the fatherland. It will also be a threat to peace in Asia and the world over.

## Japanese Economic Mission Cancels Departure For Seoul

Japanese monopoly capitalists suffered a major setback in their attempt to launch an economic invasion of South Korea as a Japanese economic mission was forced to cancel its departure for Seoul because of strong public opposition to it in South Korea.

Immediately before its departure from Haneda Airport on Jan. 23, the Japanese "Economic Mission to South Korea" was compelled suddenly to cancel its schedule. The economic mission was composed of the representatives of 23 big Japanese financial combines, including Mitsui, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo.

It is reported that the sudden suspension of the departure of the mission was due to the fact that the mission received a cable on Jan. 20 from the Chang Myun regime saying to the effect that the suspension of the departure was desirable in view of the aggravating domestic situation of South Korea.

It is recalled that this economic mission had been forced to postpone its departure, originally scheduled for December 3 last year, by the same reason.

However, they got into a scrape again. On Jan. 21, more than 2,000 citizens held a mass rally in Taegu, South Korea. Condemning the Chang Myun regime for its attempt to introduce Japanese monopolistic capital into South Korea, the rally demanded the exchange of economic missions between South and North.

Meanwhile, the preparatory committee for the Anti-Japan Struggle Conference inaugurated recently in Seoul made public an appeal calling on the masses to resort even to arms to prevent the landing at Keumpo Airport of the plane chartered by the mission.

The Japanese economic mission announced that they "postponed" their schedule. However, so long as Japanese imperialism continues its aggressive designs in South Korea, there is no doubt that it will suffer a still greater setback.

## "Talks" Strongly Opposed By Japanese People, Too

On Jan. 3, the Japan Socialist Party demanded in a statement that the Japanese Government put an end to the talks. At the session of the Japanese Diet resumed at the end of January, the interpellators of the Japan Socialist Party grilled the Ikeda Government on its hostile policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, strongly demanding immediate suspension of the "normalization talks."

Meanwhile, on Jan. 13, "Committee on Measures for 'ROK-Japan Talks'" was inaugurated in order to launch a nation-wide opposition movement against the talks. This committee is composed of more than thirty political parties and social organizations, including the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (with more than 3,500,000 members), the Japan-Korea Society, the Japan Peace Committee and the Democratic Women's Club. The committee is scheduled to start holding meetings against the talks all over Japan in each prefecture at the end of January.

In various districts such as Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Gumma and Hokkaido, joint struggle committees against the "ROK-Japan Talks" have been organized. It must be noted that the National Council against the U.S.-Japan "Security" Treaty formed last year as a joint struggle organization, is playing an active role in this movement, taking the stand that the "ROK-Japan Talks" is an immediate result of the conclusion of the U. S.-Japan "Security" Treaty.

Opposing the Japanese imperialists' plot to launch an economic invasion of South Korea, Japanese people are expressing solidarity with the Korean people struggling for peaceful unification of the fatherland. The just struggle of the Japanese people against the "ROK-Japan Talks" and for further strengthening friendship between the Korean and Japanese peoples and the peace of Asia, will continue so long as the Ikeda Government seeks criminal purposes in the talks.

## Japanese Imperialism- A Tool Of U. S. Aggression In Far East

*Minjoo Chosun of Jan. 17 carried a commentary titled "Japanese Imperialism— a Tool of the U. S. Imperialist Aggression in the Far East." The article made the following main points:*

After the World War II, U. S. imperialism has made frantic efforts to turn West Germany and Japan into bases of a new war under the slogan: "Make Asiatics fight each other!"

According to their prearranged schedule, U. S. imperialists had openly rearmed Japan step by step and revised "U.S.-Japan Security Treaty" to make it a more aggressive military alliance in 1960. The detrimental revision of "U.S.-Japan Security Treaty" is an undisguised step taken by U. S. imperialism toward restoring and strengthening Japanese imperialism, politically, militarily and economically.

In keeping with the U. S. policies toward Japan under the "U. S.-Japan Security Treaty," Japanese imperialism is gathering its strength again and plotting to realize gradually its bygone dream of "the Greater East Asia Coprosperity Sphere."

Acting in accordance with the U. S. directions, Japanese imperialism is taking a hostile attitude toward the neighboring socialist countries, including our country and People's China.

Facts show clearly that true colors of Japanese imperialism closely tied up with U. S. imperialism have not changed in the least. Today, Japanese imperialists' zeal for expansion has become ever more marked against the background of Japan's keen economic contradictions.

While plotting to normalize diplomatic relations with the South Korean puppet regime, the remnants of Japanese militarism and Japanese monopolistic capital are busy penetrating into South Korea and subordinating it to them politically and militarily.

However, Japanese imperialism, serving as a gendarme in Asia manipulated by U. S. imperialism, will be able neither to acheive its aggressive aims, nor to subordinate the Korean people again.

## Editorial

## We Oppose Japan's Economic Invasion Of South Korea

Today, the Korean people are keeping a close watch on the remnants of Japanese militarism working in collusion with U. S. imperialists, and strongly condemn their plots for renewed aggression against Korea.

As is well known, after concluding the so-called "New Security Treaty," the remnants of Japanese militarism is more positively cooperating in the aggressive policy of the U. S. in the Far East.

They have had aggressive designs against Korea for a long time, as they know well the strategic importance of Korea in the Far East. This can be well explained by a statement of Renzo Sawada, chief Japanese negotiator in the "ROK-Japan Talks" held in June of 1958: He said, "The purpose of the 'ROK-Japan Talks' is to push the 38th Parallel up to the Yalu River in cooperation with the ROK."

The ambition of these imperialist remnants was also exposed by Banboku Ono, one of the leaders of the Japanese imperialism, when he said "We should found the United States of Japan composed of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan."

It is the U. S. imperialists that have restored Japanese imperialism and are inducing it to wage a new aggressive war.

On the other hand, the traitorous Chang Myun regime openly agrees to the economic invasion of South Korea by the Japanese imperialists, in the hope of utilizing it as a means of saving the country from the current catastrophe.

Experiences of history teach us that introduction of foreign capital always leads a country to economic catastrophe and subservience. This is proved by the results of the 16 years' U. S. occupation of and "aid" to South Korea. So the South Korean people strongly condemn the Chang Myun regime for its plan to welcome economic invasion and to have the Japanese imperialists establish economic rule over South Korea.

On Jan. 13, the South Korean "Socialist Popular Party" and the "General League of Democratic Students" published statements opposing Chang Myun's plot.

"Hanguk Ilbo," a leading South Korean newspaper also editorially expressed its misgivings about this plan of the government.

We believe that all the peoples in the Far East, not to mention the Korean and Japanese peoples, will rise against the aggressive policy of the U. S. in the Far East and against the revival of Japanese militarism.

# Korean Citizens In Japan Rise For Promoting Unification Plan

Recently, Korean citizens in Japan have been holding meetings all over Japan for the peaceful unification of the fatherland and the repatriation work. Especially, they are strongly against the "ROK-Japan Talks" resumed on Jan. 25. The following are their recent movements.

## Chairman Han Duck Su On Peaceful Unification

About 4,000 Korean citizens held a rally in Shimonoseki, a Japanese port city nearest to South Korea, to express their demand for peaceful unification of their fatherland.

Attending the rally were even Koreans supporting the "Republic of Korea." But they were opposed to the Chang Myun regime, saying, "We are for peaceful unification. The Chang Myun regime calls South-North interchange and negotiation a 'dangerous plot' and opposes independent unification just as Rhee Syngman did. But we don't."

At this meeting, Han Duck Su, Chairman of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, said in a speech that the day is nearer when the fatherland will be peacefully unified and stressed that 600,000 Korean citizens in Japan should rise for evacuation of the U. S. forces from South Korea.

The speaker continued:

The U. S. imperialists are acting in South Korea as if they were in their own land. They are building military bases there for the purpose of launching a war against People's China and the Soviet Union. They are also plotting to perpetuate the present division of Korea in order to turn it into their permanent colony. We condemn the U. S. imperialists for such vicious designs.

The Chairman added:

"We also denounce the U. S. imperialists for having put the pro-Japanese Chang Myun regime in power to obstruct unification after Rhee Syngman was brought down by the people's struggle."

Referring to the U. S. imperialists' obstruction of popular endeavors for unification, he said:

"South-North interchange is supported even by Kwak Sang Hun, Speaker of the South Korean Assembly, and Vice-speaker Suh Min Ho. However, the U. S. imperialists are making every effort to prevent unification, insisting South-North negotiation should not be held without permission by the U. S. forces."

The Chairman said:

"The U. S. imperialists are promoting the so-called "ROK-Japan Talks" and are urging the Chang Myun regime to cooperate with Japanese militarists in carrying out the latter's aggressive policy in Korea. By doing so, they are going to turn South Korea into an 'anti-Communist bastion' and a base against peaceful unification."

Chairman Han Duck Su concluded his speech by saying:

"South Korean politicians, excepting Chang Myun and some other rulers, are beginning to agree that there is no way out without South-North economic interchange. It will not be long before the U. S. imperialists are evacuated from South Korea and the fatherland is unified."

## 50,000 More Expected To Go Home This Year

**A repatriation ship is leaving Niigata port. Repatriates aboard, full of hopes, are saying good-bye to well-wishers.**

About 600,000 Korean citizens in Japan, together with their brothers in the fatherland, are closing their ranks to promote the peaceful unification of the fatherland. Especially, united around the "General Association of Korean Residents in Japan," they are fighting for their national rights and for repatriation to their fatherland, where they can start a new life.

The Korean citizens in Japan have been forced to lead a extremely miserable life owing to the policy of the Japanese authorities of economic and political discrimination against them. This is the reason why they willingly applied for repatriation to their only fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Return to one's own fatherland- this is a natural desire and a human right. However, the U. S. imperialists, their puppet Chang Myun and some Japanese reactionaries have been frantically obstructing the smooth progress of the repatriation work started in December of 1959. But, in spite of their obstruction, the repatriation has been carried out thanks to public support for it, and more than 50,000 repatriates are now enjoying a happy life in their homeland.

On Jan. 13, the 52nd ship departed from Niigata port as the first repatriation ship of this year. This year, too, tens of thousands of Korean citizens will return to their beloved fatherland, with the assistance of the peace-loving peoples of the world. However, the U.S. imperialists and their puppets are predicting that there will be no more applicants for repatriation to the "Communist country" this year.

A great number of Korean citizens, although they come from South Korea, are going to North Korea. This is because they know that they cannot lead a decent life in the South owing to the spoliation policy of the U. S. imperialists. Consequently, the repatriation of Korean citizens in Japan to the northern part of the Republic is in itself an indictment against the colonial rule of the U. S. imperialists over South Korea. This is the reason why the U.S. imperialists and their puppets are opposed to repatriation. In spite of their obstructive moves, many Korean citizens are still returning to their Socialist fatherland, which ensures a happy life to them.

This year more than 50,000 Korean citizens are expected to go back to their fatherland. At the beginning of the New Year, numerous Korean citizens wish to go on board as soon as possible. Recently, there are many instances in which all Koreans in a village or at the same work place have been repatriated to their home country in groups.

A group of 36 Koreans operating crystal manufacturing factories in Osaka went back to their fatherland aboard the 34th ship last year, so that they could take their modernized equipment to the fatherland.

Now in their fatherland they are using their techniques and equipment to render service to the construction of the fatherland. They are also managing their enterprises in their own way, with aid from the government. Scores of persons engaged in vinyl-manufacture in the same district are now making preparations for collective repatriation, communizing their equipment.

On Jan. 13, fifty-three compatriots in Shiga Pref. were repatriated to their fatherland in a group aboard the 52nd ship.

About 200 to 300 jobless persons in Nagoya, applied for repatriation, intending to return in a group.

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## General Association Declares Against "ROK-Japan Talks"

On behalf of 600,000 Korean citizens in Japan, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan issued on Jan. 24 a statement against the "ROK-Japan Talks." Major points of the statement follows:

The "ROK-Japan Talks" have been reopened under the directions of the U. S., at a time when the time is ripe for peaceful unification and South-North interchange.

The Japanese authorities, recognizing the distrusted Chang Myun regime as the only legitimate government of Korea, are plotting to normalize diplomatic relations with the "ROK" around May or June. This is an intrigue aimed at perpetuating the present division of Korea at the expense of the vital interests of the Korean people.

According to a public opinion poll conducted by the South Korean "Cabinet Secretariat," 97 per cent of the persons covered did not trust in the Chang Myun regime.

We are opposed to dealings between the Japanese authorities and the Chang Myun clique which is not qualified to represent the whole of Korea.

The Japanese Government is so eager to bring the "ROK-Japan Talks" to a successful conclusion because they are going to spawn a "NEATO" to cooperate more effectively in the aggressive policy of the U. S. imperialists in the Far East.

The Japanese Government is also plotting to launch a new aggressive war against Korea in the name of economic "assistance."

The present economic catastrophe of South Korea can never be saved by Japanese militaristic monopolists.

The economic catastrophe of South Korea will be saved only by the powerful economy of North Korea.

If the Japanese Government sincerely hopes to establish relations based on goodwill and friendship between the two countries, it should work to prevent the economic invasion of the Japanese imperialists and discontinue the "ROK-Japan Talks" as soon as possible.

We strongly demand the Japanese Government to stop obstructive moves against North-South interchange and unification of the fatherland.

## 100,000 Koreans Rally All Over Japan

**A scene of a rally of Korean citizens held in Tokyo.**

The Korean citizens in Japan are doing their utmost to promote unification of the fatherland as well as the repatriation work.

In order to realize the proposal of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK of establishing South-North confederative system and of restoring the catastrophic conditions of South Korea, Korean citizens, including youth and students, women and businessmen, held meetings all over Japan between Jan. 10-26. About 100,000 Korean citizens participated in these meetings.

The participants demanded unanimously evacuation of the U. S. forces from South Korea and peaceful unification of the fatherland without any foreign interference, expressing their strong determination to resort to direct actions to promote unification of the fatherland instead of just declaring their desire.

At the rally of Korean students and youth held in Tokyo on Jan. 10, 3,000 participants renewed their determination to acquire expert knowledge and be trained in more than one technique so that they may be useful citizens in the rebuilding of South Korea after unification.

A meeting of Korean businessmen in Japan was also held in Tokyo on Jan. 11. The participants were fully determined to utilize their enterprises for the economic rebuilding of South Korea.

Meanwhile, to promote unification of the fatherland, Korean citizens are making efforts by cooperating with the compatriots who support the South Korean regime, irrespective of their political opinion.

For instance, a joint meeting of Korean journalists supporting the "Republic of Korea" and other journalists and scientists supporting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held in Tokyo on Jan. 13 to discuss the unification problem.

On Jan. 28, they met again to exchange opinions about ways and means of accomplishing the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

***South Korea Under U. S. Occupation***

# IT IS HARDER TO LIVE THAN TO DIE!

A correspondent of the French paper "Le Monde" once said of South Korea under U. S. occupation: "To find democracy in South Korea is as difficult as to find a rose in a dust bin!" Does this hold true only of the South Korea under the despotic rule of terror by Syngman Rhee ousted from the presidency last year? Some argue that things have changed for the better in South Korea since the April 19 popular uprising, especially under the Chang Myun regime formed as a result of the July 29 "general elections" of last year. But is this true? No, absolutely not.

South Korea—"a land of living corpses," "a land where 4,200,000 jobless persons are on the brink of starvation, hundreds of thousands of orphans are crowded in the bustling streets or back streets and over 3,000,000 peasants, faced with starvation, are shivering with cold without farm-land to cultivate and without dwelling houses to live in."

This is the realities of today's South Korea as a Swedish woman correspondent saw it. To grasp a slice of social life in South Korea, we will see what the life of a casual laborer is like.

He is one of the many casual labourers in Seoul, supporting a family of five with the earnings he makes by carrying baggage for passengers at Seoul Station. He comes from North Kyungsang Province. A poor farmer, he had to desert his home village. He recalled his past as follows: "Fighting a long spell of droughts and floods, I worked hard to survive. My family were hungry all the year round, and we sank deeper and deeper in debt. In summer, we could manage to eke out a scanty living by borrowing money at a high interest rate. In autumn, we used to have all our harvests snatched away to the last grain by money-lenders. It was harder to live than to die. We were forced to desert the old home village under these circumstances seeking a living in Seoul" (Chosun Ilbo dated Jan. 3).

In this way, nearly 400,000 farming households quitted their farmland in 1958. This was 17 per cent of the total number of the farming households in South Korea (Sege Tongshin of September 10, 1958).

In South Korea, the majority of peasantry are petty farmers. Petty farmers with less than one chungbo (one chungbo is equal to 2.45 acres) constituted 72.6 per cent of the total number of South Korean farmers in 1958. In the same year, there were more than 3,000,000 hungry peasants in spite of the best harvest since Korea's Liberation from the yoke of Japanese imperialism. As of March 1959, more than 700,000 farming households were in short of food.

These figures suffice to show the conditions confronting the South Korean peasantry. Feudalistic moral rules to govern "human relations" (between father and son, master and servant, husband and wife, brothers and friends), are forced on the South Korean people. Women's conditions in South Korean rural villages are extremely miserable. Illiterate, uneducated, and in a state of rightlessness, they work like beasts of burden day in and day out. It is not without reason that a certain foreigner branded human relations in South Korean farming villages as "present-day serfdom."

A poverty-stricken casual laborer in South Korea.

The above-mentioned casual worker says: "I earn 500 huan a day if things go well. With this money, it is very difficult, practically impossible, to sustain my family of five. Moreover, I must pay various taxes. Taking three meals a day is a daily routine for ordinary people. But as for me and my family members, no meals a day or two is a weekly routine. This is hard" (Chosun Ilbo of Jan. 3).

U. S. imperialism is still pursuing its aggressive aims in Korea.

In this way, the number of those who have flowed into urban areas in search of jobs reaches 6,000,000. This is 28 per cent of the population of South Korea and 56.3 per cent of the working population. Considering that there are 600,000-700,000 workers in all in South Korea, including workers in the manufacturing, transportation, commerce, mining, forestry, fishery industries and at U. S. military bases, the percentage of unemployment reaches roughly 90 per cent, a rate unprecedented in history and in the world.

As against an average monthly salary of 35,700 huan, a public service worker with five family members needs 77,200 huan on the average to meet household expenses in Seoul (monthly bulletin of the Bank of Korea, March 1959). This means that his salary is only 47 per cent of his family's living cost. This suffices to show that the living condition of low-salaried workers and jobless persons are far more miserable. Moreover, it must be noted the price index as of June 1960 was 43,000 times that in June 1945 (Sege Tongshin of June 10, 1960) and the sum of unpaid wages reached 520 million huan in 1957 and 740 million huan in 1958. So it is quite understandable when "Jinsang" (Truth), a South Korean magazine, said: "People are extremely poor here in South Korea. They are grieving for a single penny. It's harder for them to live than to die."

Let's listen to the above-mentioned casual laborer again.

**This is the American way of democracy and freedom!**
—An instance of atrocities committed by American soldiers in Korea.

He says: "As a primary school pupil, I was happy when I ate a bellyful of boiled rice on an school excursion or at an athletic meeting. So I shall be very happy if I could eat to my fill. Boiled rice, barley...Anything will do, if it is eatable." However, the price of rice has risen by 30 per cent in less than 18 days' this year. He continues: "I was born poor. Poverty has been part of my life. I am sick of poverty. My children shall not live as I did. I pin all my hopes on my sons and daughters. But I cannot send them to school!"

Today, South Korean schools of all levels are completely under the control of profiteers. In the new school year term of April 1959, they collected 36,100 million huan (corresponding to 31 per cent of the total amount of currency in circulation at that time) from new students of junior and senior high schools and higher educational institutions in the name of entrance, tuition, PTA fees and so forth. During this new year school term, they will collect no less than 145,000 million huan.

A Swiss correspondent writes: "In South Korea turned into an unimaginably merciless earthly hell under U.S. occupation, it is a wonder for the people to survive." And this from a report of the "Times of India": "South Korea has been turned into 'a land of death' or 'a land at the point of death.'" These are the realities of today's South Korea under U. S. occupation. Under these circumstances, the South Korean people are persistently struggling for evacuation of U.S. troops from their land and for peaceful unification of their fatherland.

## Readers' Column

**From an Australian friend:**

Dear Mr. Kim,

I am pleased to see that you are publishing a journal in English, and thank you for the copy of The People's Korea, which arrived here today.

In these days of distorted news reportage, anything you can do to present facts on conditions in both North and South Korea will be very valuable and important.

I wish it success and great usefulness.

Yours sincerely,

From an Australian reader.

**From an American friend:**

Dear Mr. Kim,

I recently was sent copies of your first issue of The People's Korea. I read it very carefully and find that it is a most useful publication full of vital and valid information about Korea and developments there. Your journal serves a vital role and will continue to do so especially if your articles continue to be so soundly based in fact and first-hand, objective reportage. Your articles on production figures in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are extremely interesting.

I do hope that your journal flourishes and makes a mighty contribution toward the ultimate, inevitable reunification of the brave and strong people of the glorious nation of Korea!

Best fraternal wishes to you and the people of Korea.

Most sincerely yours,

From an American reader.

The People's Korea

Published twice a month by Chosun Shinbo Sa
President and Publisher: Kim Min Hua
Office: 5 Tsukudo Hachimancho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan